

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-04 IO-10 RSC-01

COME-00 TRSE-00 SWF-01 CIEP-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-05

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TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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E.O. 1652: N/A

TAGS:ETRD/EAGR, ET

SUBJECT: US BUYER CONCERN OVER CONTINUED ACCESS
TO ETHIOPIAN COFFEE

1. FOLGER VP LANKESTER CONTACTED DEPARTMENT TO EXPRESS
HIS FIRM'S CONCERN OVER THEIR INABILITY TO OBTAIN NORMAL
COFFEE SUPPLIES FROM ETHIOPIA. ACCORDING TO LANKESTER,
REGULAR COFFEE AUCTIONS HAVE BEEN DISRUPTED SINCE ARREST
AND IMPRISONMENT OF FORMER ETHIOPIAN NATIONAL COFFEE BOARD

MANAGER ASNAKE. AUCTION DISRUPTION COUPLED WITH CON-
TINUED UNCERTAINTY OVER ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT COFFEE
TAX POLICY HAS LED TO RETENTION OF STOCKS IN HANDS OF
DEALERS, AND FAILURE OF EXPORTERS TO OBTAIN NEEDED
SUPPLY. LANKESTER CLAIMS THAT IF FOLGER CANNOT OBTAIN
REQUIRED ETHIOPIAN COFFEE, IT WILL BE COMPELLED TO TURN
TO OTHER SOURCES OF SUPPLY. FOLGER, MAJOR US BUYER OF
ETHIOPIAN COFFEE, REGRETS POSSIBLE NECESSITY SUCH ACTION
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WHICH IT DEEMS COULD HAVE UNFAVORABLE LONGER TERM IMPACT

ON DEVELOPMENT OF ETHIOPIAN COFFEE INDUSTRY.

2. IF EMBASSY DEEMS APPROPRIATE, DEPARTMENT SUGGESTS
ABOVE INFORMATION BE TRANSMITTED TO ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT
TO FOCUS ATTENTION THIS PROBLEM. MAW

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Message Attributes

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